



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

*"Parks Make Life Better!"*

Russ Guiney, Director

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**GRAND OPENING EVENT DRAWS THOUSANDS TO  
NEW HACIENDA HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER**

Saturday, Oct. 25 was a historic day in the Hacienda Heights community, as more than 2,000 residents joined Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chairman Don Knabe, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District for the unveiling of the \$21 million Hacienda Heights Community Center.

The festivities included live musical performances, remarks and presentations by local leaders, free food tastings from local restaurants and tours of the community center.

"I want to thank the community for partnering with us to develop this beautiful landmark," said Chairman Knabe. "Together, we have built a hub for this area, a place where people of all ages can learn, play, grow, get healthy, make new friendships and have fun! My sincere congratulations and appreciation to everyone who put so much effort into creating this new, state-of-the-art, environmentally responsible facility."

Located at 1234 Valencia Ave., the 21,000 square-foot community center is the former site of Hillgrove Elementary School. Amenities include a multi-purpose performance space with stage and retractable seating for up to 500 people; scene shop, green room, and dressing room; professional-style dance rehearsal space; catering kitchen; and rooms dedicated to arts-and-crafts and computers.

Surrounding the center are seven acres of gorgeous recreational parkland, with features that include walking trails, fitness stations, and lawn areas for outdoor gatherings and activities. A civic art installation by artist James Dinh, entitled "Circles of a Ripple" is also a key element of the site.

Now open to the public, the center boasts close to 30 low-cost programs and classes, led by experienced staff and instructors and covering a variety of topics and interests ranging from digital photography and web design to Lego engineering and dance. Classes start Nov. 3, and those interested in participating can register and get more information by visiting the center or calling (626) 333-3250.

While the programs are certain to draw wide interest, facilities at the center are also available for rental — a much-needed local resource for organizations and residents looking to host performances or other large gatherings. The center is ideal for stage plays, concerts, school dances and awards shows; the large multi-purpose room, which can accommodate banquet style seating for up to 400 people, can be used for weddings, cultural celebrations and much more.

“The Hacienda Heights Community Center is emblematic of our motto and guiding principle: ‘Parks Make Life Better!’ By offering a beautiful gathering place and many low-cost resources for healthy recreation along with personal and cultural enrichment, this center will be a central point in this fantastic community for generations to come,” said Russ Guiney, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Future generations are sure to appreciate the care that has gone into ensuring that the center’s design reflects Los Angeles County’s strong commitment to environmental stewardship. Many sustainable technologies and design elements — such as natural light, a high reflective roofing system, harvested wood throughout the center, reused concrete and asphalt, post-consumer recyclable content products and drought tolerant landscaping — make the new center an environmentally responsible addition to the community. For its extensive energy efficiency efforts, the Hacienda Heights Community Center is expected to achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Rating.

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